

Message Text

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21

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-05 INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7827

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, ELAB, FI

SUBJECT: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT IN LABOR EDUCATION

REF: STATE 184156

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH NOT A REFTEL ADDRESSEE EMBASSY HELSINKI URGES THAT ROOM BE FOUND FOR FINNISH LABOR EDUCATOR IN MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTEL WAS BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE DURING RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT IS TAILOR-MADE TO ADVANCE LONG-STANDING US POLICY OBJECTIVE IN FINLAND WHICH FOR YEARS HAS WITHERED ON VINE FOR LACK OF SUPPORT. NAMELY TO STRENGTHEN THE TIES AND CONTACTS BETWEEN US LABOR MOVEMENT AND NON-COMMUNIST MAJORITY IN FINNISH LABOR MOVEMENT. IMPORTANCE OF, AND NEED FOR, THIS EFFORT CAN BE ATTESTED BY IAM INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY BEN SHARMAN WHO RECENTLY MADE FIRST VISIT TO FINLAND BY US TRADE UNION OFFICIAL IN MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

2. AMBASSADOR URGES THAT SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INCLUSION OF FINN IN MULTI-REGIONAL

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PROJECT IN LABOR EDUCATION. IF RESTRICTED FUNDING

WILL NOT ALLOW PROGRAM TO BE ENLARGED EMBASSY ASKS
THAT FINN BE OFFERED ANY VACANCY THAT OTHER POSTS
UNABLE TO FILL.

3. OUR NOMINEE FOR PROGRAM IS SECRETARY GENERAL
OF FINNISH WORKER'S CULTURAL LEAGUE (TSL), JUSSI
PIKKUSAARI. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NOT APPROACHED
PIKKUSAARI AND DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE COULD BE
AVAILABLE FOR OCTOBER 7-NOVEMBER 6 PROGRAM. THE
TSL, WHICH PIKKUSAARI HEADS, BILLS ITSELF AS THE
LARGEST WORKERS' ORGANIZATION IN FINLAND. ITS
MEMBERS INCLUDE THE CENTRAL CONFEDERATION OF
FINNISH TRADE UNIONS (SAK), THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (SDP), THE CENTRAL FEDERATION OF COOPERATIVES
(KK) AS WELL AS SEVERAL SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH
ORGANIZATIONS. IN ITS FUNCTION AS COORDINATING
BODY FOR ALL FORMS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN
THE LABOR MOVEMENT IT HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE.
PIKKUSAARI, WHO WAS EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECRETARY
OF THE SAK BEFORE HE MOVED OVER TO THE TSL LAST
YEAR, THUS OCCUPIES ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS
AND INFLUENTIAL POSITIONS IN THE FINNISH LABOR
MOVEMENT. PIKKUSAARI IS A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WHO WAS
ACTIVE IN COUNTERING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE DURING
THE YEARS HE WAS IN THE SAK. HE SENT OUT OF HIS
WAY TO HELP SPONSOR VISITING AMERICAN PROFESSORS
BECAUSE OF HIS CONCERN TO BALANCE THE CONSTANT
FLOOD OF VISITORS FROM THE USSR AND EASTERN
EUROPE. A TRIP TO THE US WOULD NOT ONLY BROADEN
PIKKUSAARI'S HORIZONS; IT WOULD PROVIDE HIM WITH
THE KINDS OF CONTACTS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE FLOW
OF LABOR VISITORS FROM THE US TO FINLAND LARGER
AND MORE SPONTANEOUS THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE RECENT
PAST.

4. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: JUSSI PIKKUSAARI WAS
BORN IN FINLAND IN 1939 IN THE TOWN OF LAPUA. HE
IS MARRIED AND HAS CHILDREN. HE GRADUATED FROM
UNIVERSITY IN 1968. HE WORKED WITH THE TSL AS
EDUCATION DIRECTOR FROM 1966 TO 1970. AT THE
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BEGINNING OF 1971 HE MOVED TO THE SAK, RETURNING
TO THE TSL AS DIRECTOR IN LATE 1973. PIKKUSAARI
WAS FINLAND'S WORKER DELEGATE TO THE ILO GENERAL
CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN JUNE 1973. HE HAS
TRAVELED WIDELY IN WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE
(FINNISH LABOR LEADERS ARE DELUGED WITH INVITATIONS
FOR STUDY TOURS AND EVEN FREE VACATIONS IN
EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES). PIKKUSAARI HAS NEVER

VISITED THE UNITED STATES. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH
AND WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY FOLLOWING A MONTH-
LONG PROGRAM IN ENGLISH.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
BECAUSE OF LIMITED LEAD TIME.
KREHBIEL

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